SHADOW FALL
PART 3 OF 4
ISSUE 61
SEGA
Archie COMICS
SONIC UNIVERSE™
WHEN STRIKES--
ECLIPSE
Tracy Yardley!
-Jim Amash
HERE
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Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Shadow and Team Dark confront the evil Black Arms aliens to save the world from a second invasion!

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

TEAM DARK NO MORE?!

With the world shattered, the last thing it needs is an alien invasion. Unfortunately, Black Death is leading the last remaining Black Arms aliens to do just that! Therefore, G.U.N. sent Team Dark and Spider Troupe out in a preemptive attack.

The mission has not gone well. Shadow was separated from the others, leaving Spider Troupe without a guide. Rouge and Omega were left to lead them as best they could to deliver the crucial nuclear bomb to the heart of the Black Comet.

Meanwhile, Shadow was confronted by Eclipse – a Black Arms alien bred specifically to counter him. Together, Black Death and Eclipse managed to psychically overpower Shadow. **The ultimate lifeform now serves the Black Arms, and is currently about to destroy his friends...**

WHO'S WHO

SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG
THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM

ROUGE THE BAT
SUPER SPY

E-123 OMEGA
ROGUE BADNIK

ECLIPSE THE DARKLING
EVIL ALIEN

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SHADOW FALL
PART THREE: A MATTER OF TRUST
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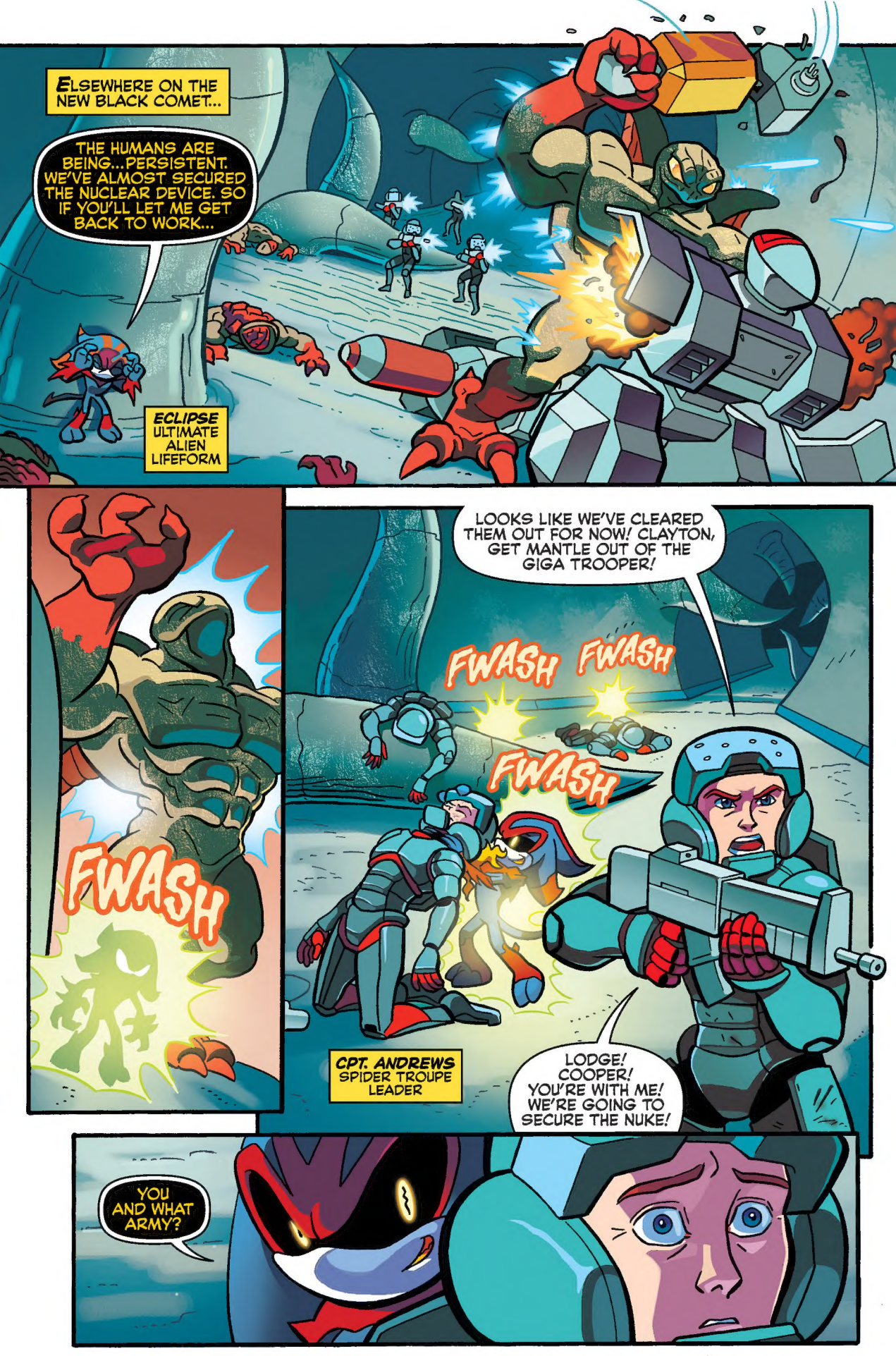
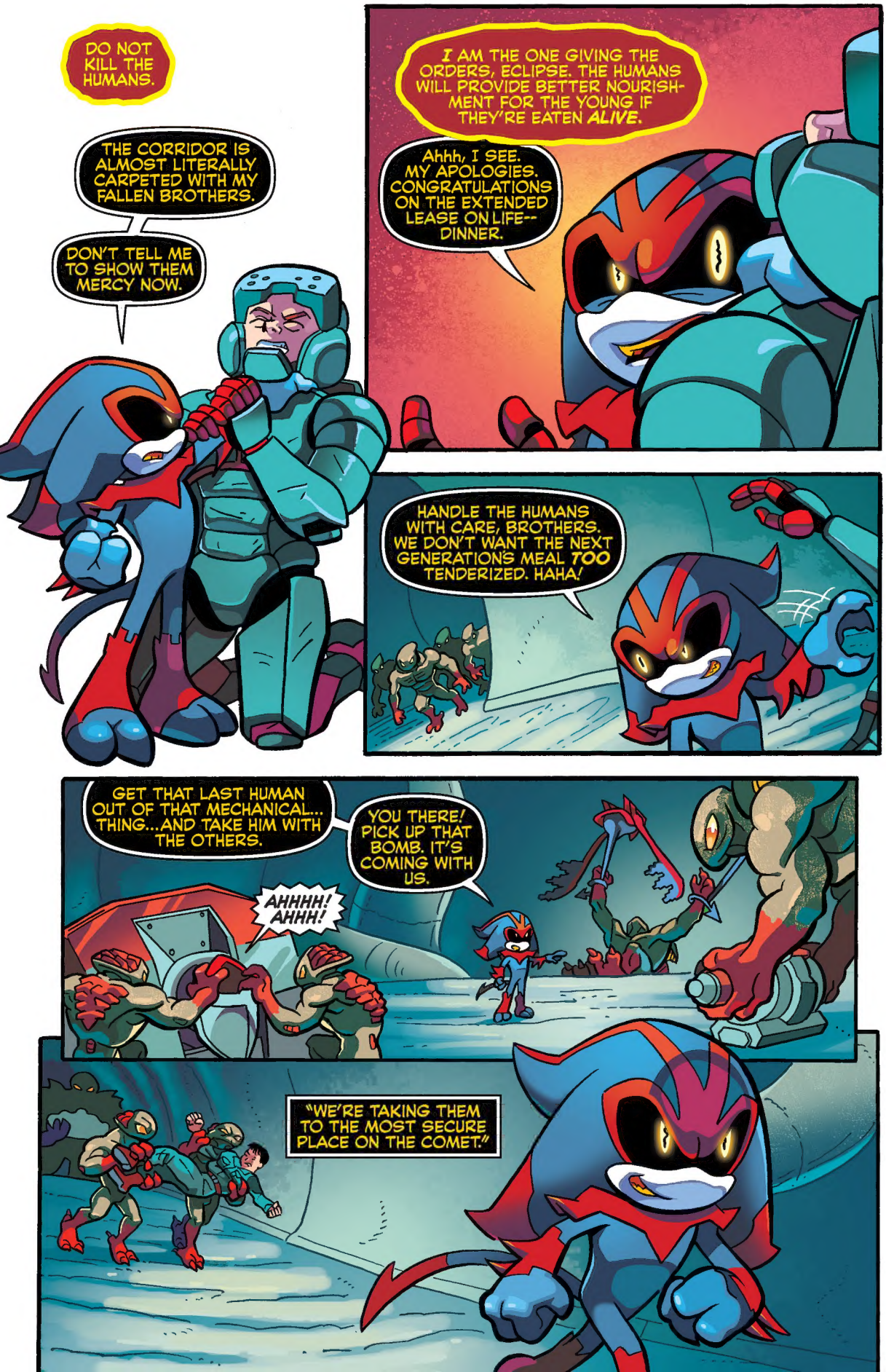
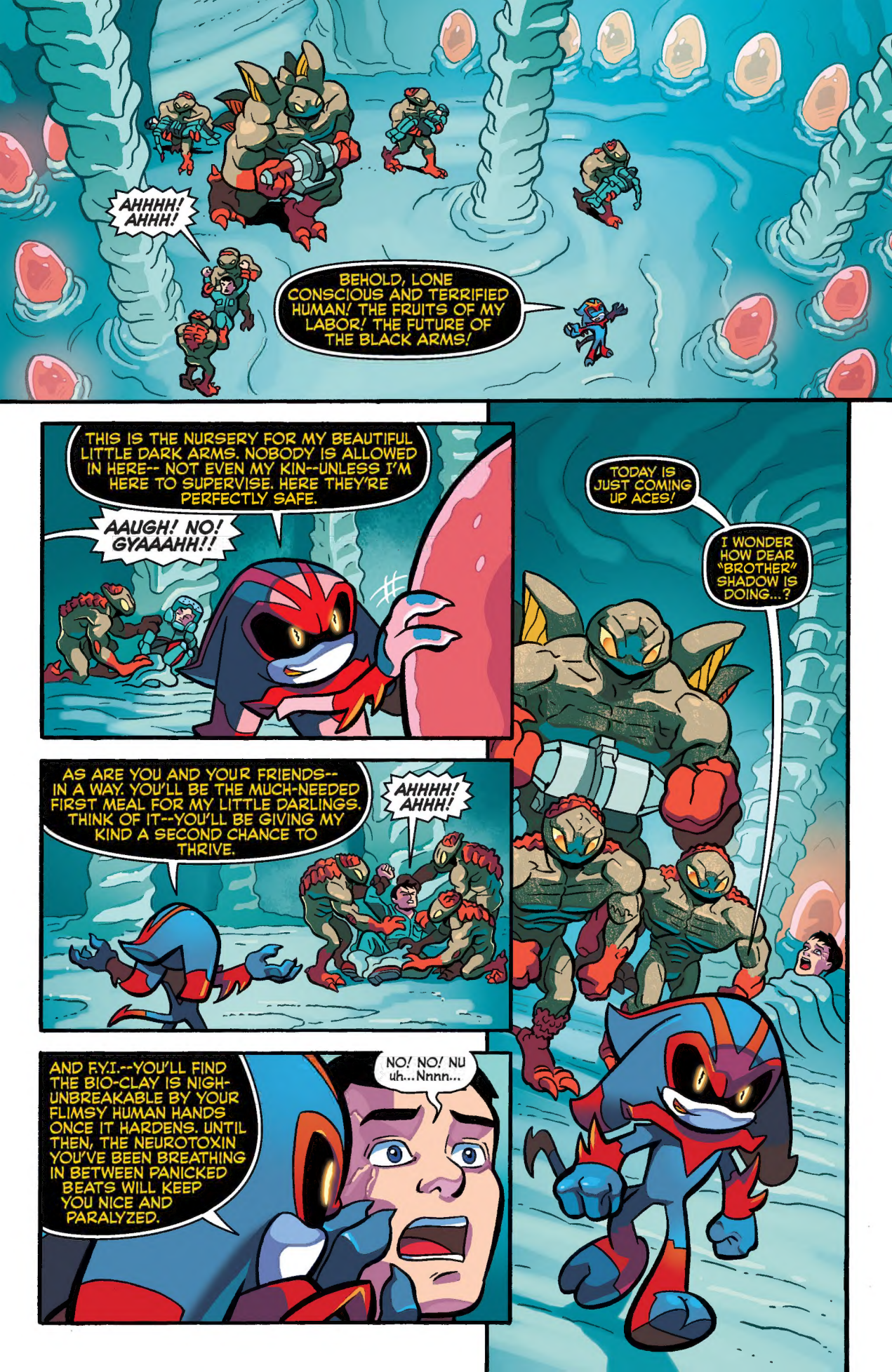
SPECIAL THANKS TO: ANTHONY GACCIONE, CINDY CHAU and the CHARACTER BUSINESS and LICENSING DEPARTMENT of SEGA CORPORATION
INSIDE THE NEW BLACK COMET...
SHADOW!
DESIST IMMEDIATELY OR I WILL BE FORCED TO DESTROY YOU!
ROUGE G.U.N. SPY
SHADOW MIND-CONTROLLED ALIEN HYBRID
OMEGA WALKING ARSENAL

THWAKK
"DESTROY" HIM?
I WOULD ENJOY PROVING WHICH OF US IS STRONGER.
MAIMING WOULD BE INVOLVED. HE WOULD HEAL. EVENTUALLY.
WE'RE TRYING TO WIN HIM BACK OVER TO OUR SIDE!
QUERY: WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO BE HONEST, THEN?
WIN... BACK...?
DO NOT LISTEN TO THEM. DO NOT SPEAK TO THEM.
DESTROY THEM.
HERE HE COMES!

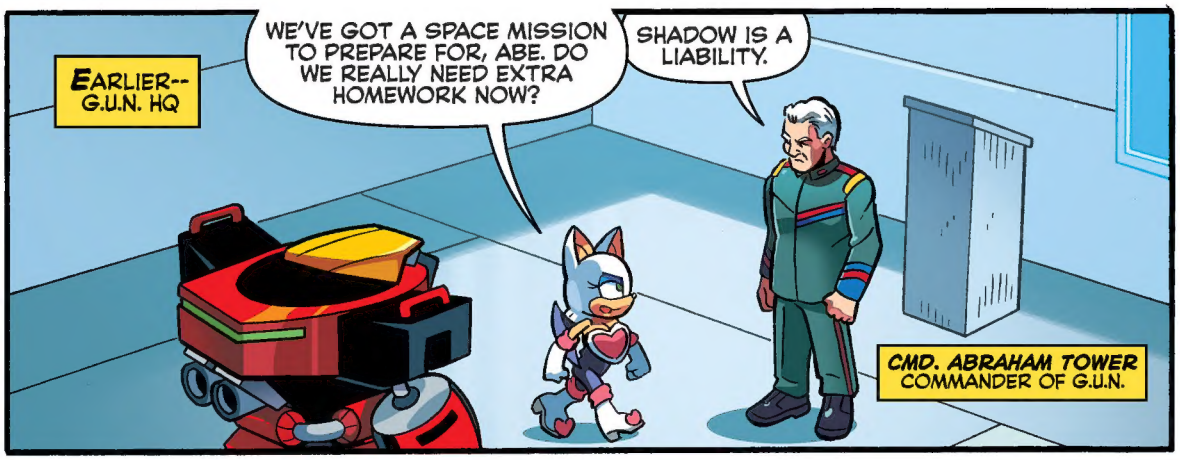
DEEPER IN THE NEW BLACK COMET...
Hrm...SHADOW IS SHOWING CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE TO MY MIND-CONTROL. NO WONDER BLACK DOOM COULDN'T CONTROL HIM.*
BLACK DEATH BLACK ARMS' LEADER
*SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG --THE GAME
I LET MY THIRST FOR REVENGE CLOUD MY JUDGEMENT. SHADOW WAS MEANT TO BE OUR CHAMPION, LEADING US TO A SWIFT CONQUEST OF THE PLANET. INSTEAD, HE BETRAYED US, AND NEARLY WIPED OUT OUR KIND.
I HAD HOPED TO INVADE THE WORLD QUICKLY AND QUIETLY, LET ECLIPSE NEUTRALIZE SHADOW AND USE THE DARK ARMS PROJECT TO EMPOWER MY WARRIORS.
INSTEAD, WE WERE INVADED, AND I LET ECLIPSE CONVINCE ME TO WASTE PRECIOUS TIME TRYING TO CONTROL SHADOW.
USING SHADOW TO DESTROY THE WORLD HE'S SWORN TO PROTECT WOULD BE SWEET, BUT...EITHER HE WILL DESTROY HIS FRIENDS, OR THEY WILL DESTROY HIM. I CAN WORK WITH EITHER SCENARIO...
...PROVIDED THE HUMANS AND THEIR BOMB ARE PROPERLY DEALT WITH.
ECLIPSE? REPORT.

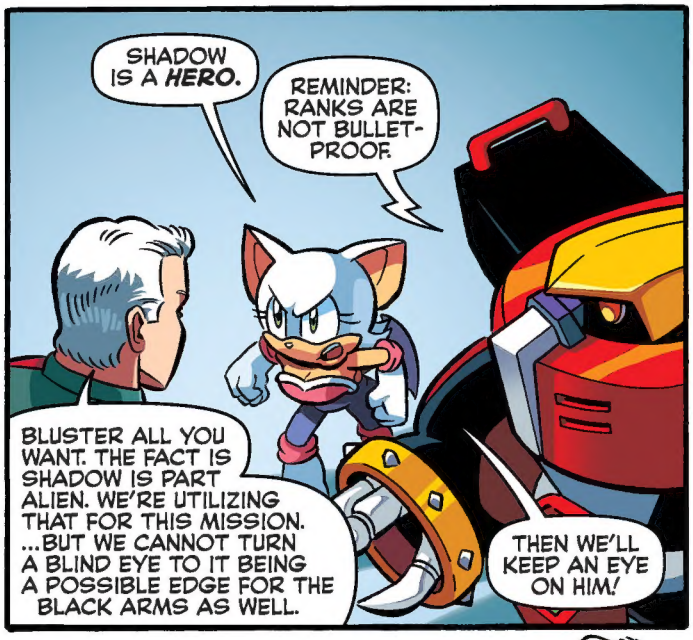

ELSEWHERE ON THE NEW BLACK COMET...
THE HUMANS ARE BEING...PERSISTENT. WE'VE ALMOST SECURED THE NUCLEAR DEVICE. SO IF YOU'LL LET ME GET BACK TO WORK...
ECLIPSE ULTIMATE ALIEN LIFEFORM
FWASH
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE CLEARED THEM OUT FOR NOW! CLAYTON, GET MANTLE OUT OF THE GIGA TROOPER!
FWASH FWASH
FWASH
CPT. ANDREWS SPIDER TROUPE LEADER
LODGE! COOPER! YOU'RE WITH ME! WE'RE GOING TO SECURE THE NUKE!
YOU AND WHAT ARMY?


DO NOT KILL THE HUMANS.
THE CORRIDOR IS ALMOST LITERALLY CARPETED WITH MY FALLEN BROTHERS.
DON'T TELL ME TO SHOW THEM MERCY NOW.
I AM THE ONE GIVING THE ORDERS, ECLIPSE. THE HUMANS WILL PROVIDE BETTER NOURISHMENT FOR THE YOUNG IF THEY'RE EATEN ALIVE.
Ahhh, I SEE. MY APOLOGIES. CONGRATULATIONS ON THE EXTENDED LEASE ON LIFE--DINNER.
HANDLE THE HUMANS WITH CARE, BROTHERS. WE DON'T WANT THE NEXT GENERATION'S MEAL TOO TENDERIZED. HAHA!
GET THAT LAST HUMAN OUT OF THAT MECHANICAL... THING...AND TAKE HIM WITH THE OTHERS.
YOU THERE! PICK UP THAT BOMB. IT'S COMING WITH US.
AHHHH! AHHH!
"WE'RE TAKING THEM TO THE MOST SECURE PLACE ON THE COMET."

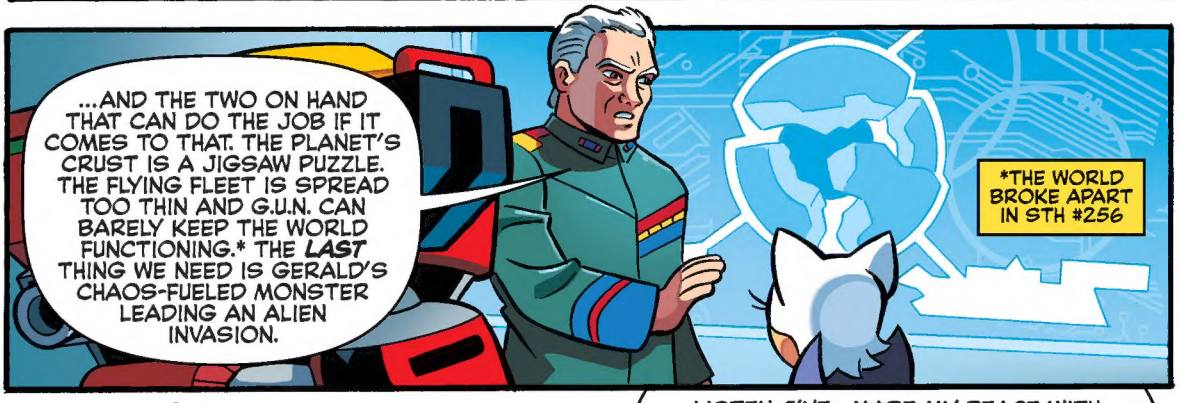

AHHHH! AHHH!
BEHOLD, LONE CONSCIOUS AND TERRIFIED HUMAN! THE FRUITS OF MY LABOR! THE FUTURE OF THE BLACK ARMS!
THIS IS THE NURSERY FOR MY BEAUTIFUL LITTLE DARK ARMS. NOBODY IS ALLOWED IN HERE-- NOT EVEN MY KIN--UNLESS I'M HERE TO SUPERVISE. HERE THEY'RE PERFECTLY SAFE.
AAUGH! NO! GYAAAHH!!
TODAY IS JUST COMING UP ACES!
I WONDER HOW DEAR "BROTHER" SHADOW IS DOING...?
AS ARE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS-- IN A WAY. YOU'LL BE THE MUCH-NEEDED FIRST MEAL FOR MY LITTLE DARLINGS. THINK OF IT--YOU'LL BE GIVING MY KIND A SECOND CHANCE TO THRIVE.
AHHHH! AHHH!
AND F.Y.I.--YOU'LL FIND THE BIO-CLAY IS NIGH-UNBREAKABLE BY YOUR FLIMSY HUMAN HANDS ONCE IT HARDENS. UNTIL THEN, THE NEUROTOXIN YOU'VE BEEN BREATHING IN BETWEEN PANICKED BEATS WILL KEEP YOU NICE AND PARALYZED.
NO! NO! NU uh...Nnnn...

THOK
VWIP
TELEPORTING!
GOT HIM!
THOOM
WARNING! WE NEED TO FINISH THIS BEFORE WE HAVE TO--
I KNOW! I KNOW! I'M THINKING...
"ROUGE? OMEGA? A WORD PLEASE."


EARLIER-- G.U.N. HQ
WE'VE GOT A SPACE MISSION TO PREPARE FOR, ABE. DO WE REALLY NEED EXTRA HOMEWORK NOW?
SHADOW IS A LIABILITY.
CMD. ABRAHAM TOWER COMMANDER OF G.U.N.


SHADOW IS A HERO.
REMINDER: RANKS ARE NOT BULLET-PROOF.
BLUSTER ALL YOU WANT. THE FACT IS SHADOW IS PART ALIEN. WE'RE UTILIZING THAT FOR THIS MISSION. ...BUT WE CANNOT TURN A BLIND EYE TO IT BEING A POSSIBLE EDGE FOR THE BLACK ARMS AS WELL.
THEN WE'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HIM!

YES. AND IF HE GOES ROGUE, YOU'RE GOING TO NEUTRALIZE HIM.
WHAT?! I... HOW DARE YOU?! WE'RE--!
THE TWO WHO KNOW HIM THE BEST...


...AND THE TWO ON HAND THAT CAN DO THE JOB IF IT COMES TO THAT. THE PLANET'S CRUST IS A JIGSAW PUZZLE. THE FLYING FLEET IS SPREAD TOO THIN AND G.U.N. CAN BARELY KEEP THE WORLD FUNCTIONING.* THE LAST THING WE NEED IS GERALD'S CHAOS-FUELED MONSTER LEADING AN ALIEN INVASION.
*THE WORLD BROKE APART IN STH #256

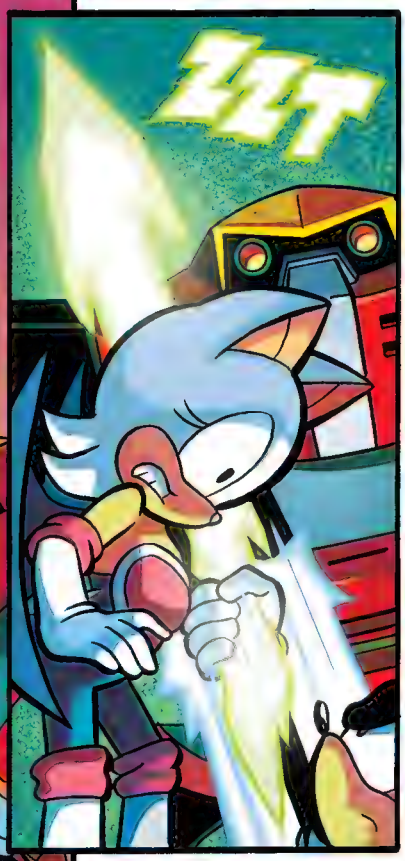
LISTEN. I'VE...MADE MY PEACE WITH SHADOW. I BEAR HIM NO ILL WILL. I DON'T LIKE SENDING SOLDIERS TO THEIR DEATHS. BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO ONE LIFE VERSUS MILLIONS, THERE'S NO CHOICE. I TRUST YOU TWO WILL DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

...WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE...?

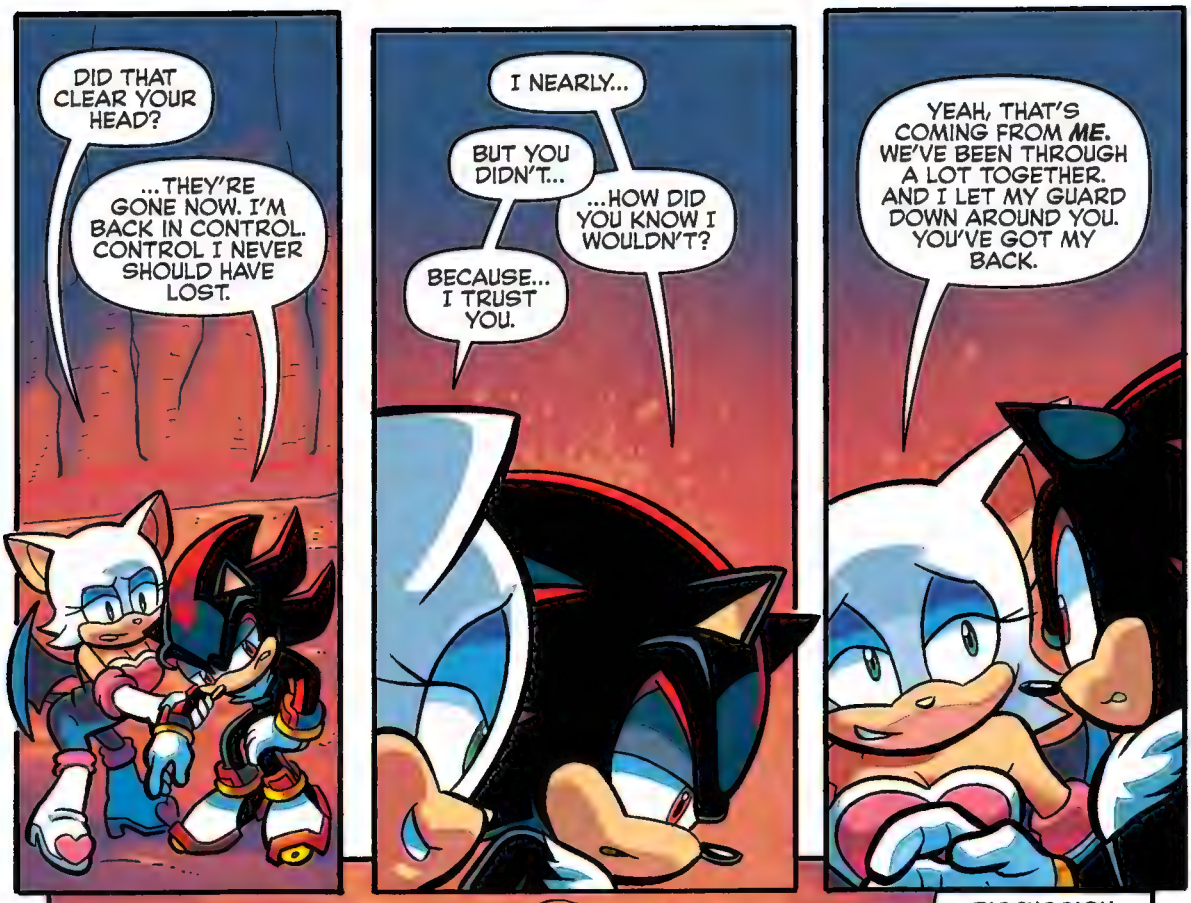
GET OFF OF HIM.
ARE YOU SURE? I HAVE NOT SUCCESSFULLY BEATEN SENSE NOR A CONCUSSION INTO HIM YET.
JUST MOVE ALREADY.

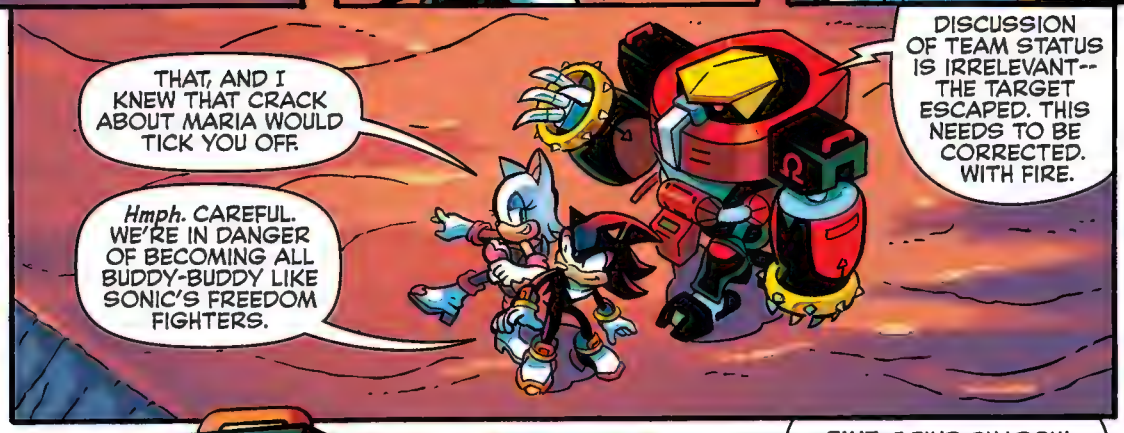
I KNOW THE REAL SHADOW CAN HEAR ME, SO LISTEN UP. YOU'RE THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM. YOU'RE TOO STRONG AND TOO STUBBORN TO LET THESE ALIENS GET INTO YOUR HEAD.

I FIGURE YOU'VE GOT SOME KIND OF INNER STRUGGLE.
NOT THAT YOU'LL TELL US--YOU PREFER TO BROOD AND INTERNALIZE.
BUT THIS IS FOR THE SAKE OF EVERYONE BACK HOME. SO ARE YOU GOING TO GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER, OR AM I GOING TO HAVE TO GET SAPPY AND INVOKE MARIA FOR THE HUNDREDTH TIME?


ZZT

OMEGA... ALIEN... TEN O'CLOCK HIGH... CONTROL-LING...
UNDERSTOOD!
DAKKA-DAKKA-DAKKA
DAKKA-DAKKA-DAKKA
FWOOSH
PFWEEE
KA-BOOM
DAKKA-DAKKA-DAKKA
FWOOSH
DAKKA-DAKKA-DAKKA
GRRR ARGH! AUGH! AHHH... HAA...
FWOOSH
KA-BOOM


DID THAT CLEAR YOUR HEAD?
...THEY'RE GONE NOW. I'M BACK IN CONTROL. CONTROL I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LOST.
I NEARLY...
BUT YOU DIDN'T...
...HOW DID YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T?
BECAUSE... I TRUST YOU.
YEAH, THAT'S COMING FROM ME. WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER. AND I LET MY GUARD DOWN AROUND YOU. YOU'VE GOT MY BACK.


THAT, AND I KNEW THAT CRACK ABOUT MARIA WOULD TICK YOU OFF.
Hmph. CAREFUL. WE'RE IN DANGER OF BECOMING ALL BUDDY-BUDDY LIKE SONIC'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
DISCUSSION OF TEAM STATUS IS IRRELEVANT-- THE TARGET ESCAPED. THIS NEEDS TO BE CORRECTED. WITH FIRE.

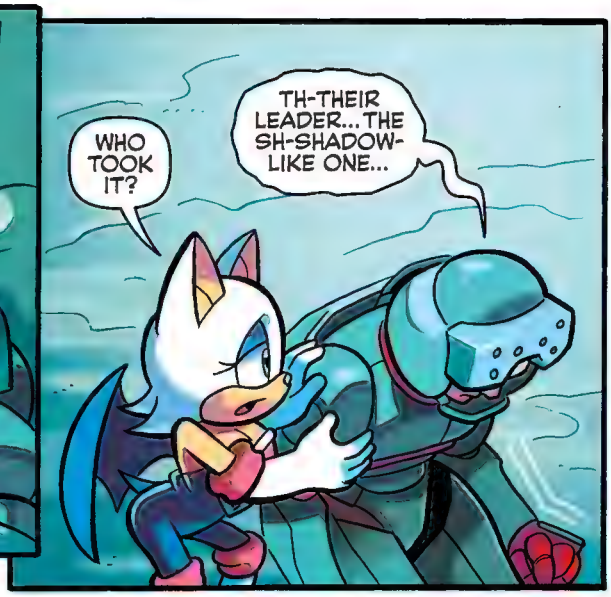
Oh, NOT JUST YET. YOU HAVE TO ADMIT TO THE COMRADERY, TOO.
FINE. I FIND SHADOW INSPIRATIONAL, AND YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY MEAT-BAGS I TOLERATE... TRUST.
Hmph. THANK YOU, OMEGA. ROUGE. IT'S GOOD TO HAVE PARTNERS LIKE YOU.

MAY WE RESUME THE VIOLENT CONQUEST NOW?
YES. YOU TWO WILL CHECK ON SPIDER TROUPE AND THEN ENSURE THE BOMB IS DEPLOYED. I WILL...
Oh, NO YOU DON'T. WE JUST BROKE THE MIND-CONTROL. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO RUN OFF ON YOUR OWN AND GET CAUGHT AGAIN.
...I WILL ELIMINATE BLACK DEATH, THEIR LEADER. THAT WILL DRAW THE BLACK ARMS AWAY FROM YOU. NOTHING WILL STOP ME FROM MY REVENGE.
CONCERN: THE TRACKING SIGNAL FOR SPIDER TROUPE IS WEAK, AND THE ALIEN ARCHITECTURE IS MAZE-LIKE. LOCATING THEM WILL BE DIFFICULT.
NO. SINCE BLACK DEATH GOT INTO MY HEAD, I'VE GOT A MUCH STRONGER CONNECTION TO THE HIVE-MIND. I CAN DIRECT YOU.
YIKES! OKAY, I'M CON-VINCED!
AS I SAID-- INSPIRATIONAL.
TEAM DARK
MOVE OUT!!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING DEEPER DOWN. WHAT SHOULD WE BE LOOKING FOR?
YOU'LL EXIT INTO A LARGER CHAMBER. LOOK FOR TUNNELS HEADING UPWARDS. THEY SHOULD BE AT ABOUT THREE O'CLOCK FROM YOUR POSITION.
UNDERSTOOD. WE'RE NOT MEETING ANY RESISTANCE. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M ENCOUNTERING SOME. NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE.

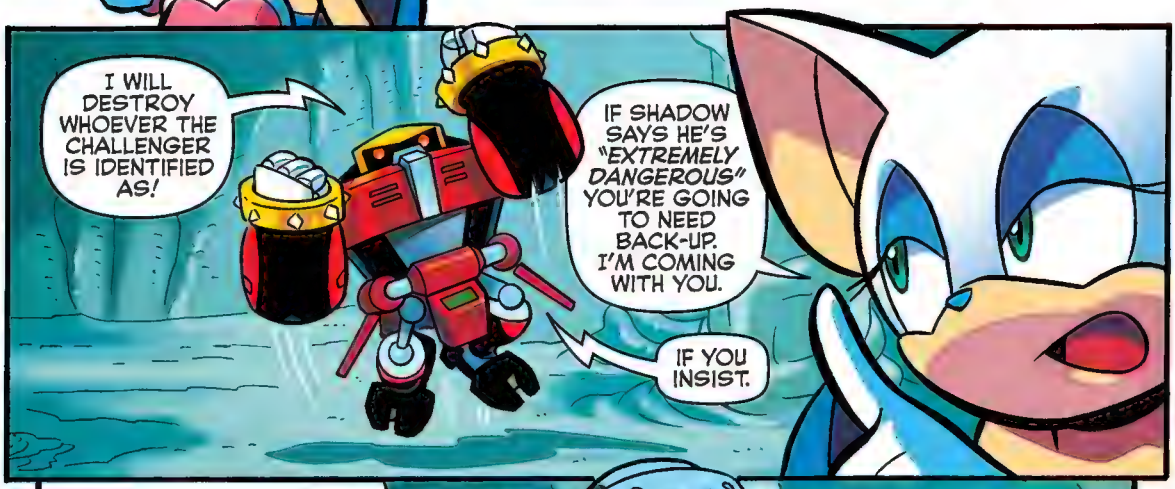
BLAM
ROOAARR!

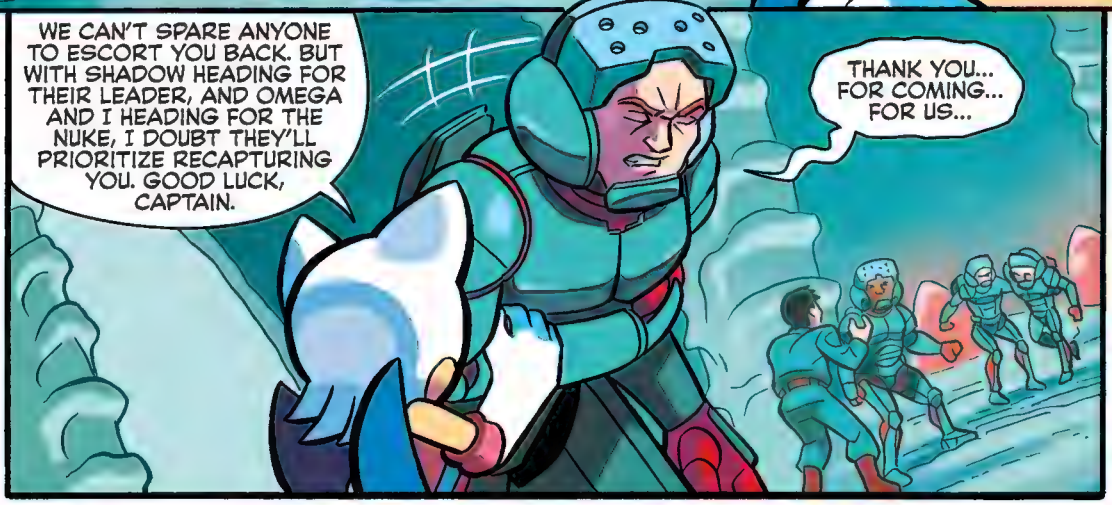
Skrk... Skrk...
...ahh?
Ahh!! AHH!! NNAAHHH!!
FOUND THEM! I THINK THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!
I AM OBLIGATED TO BE PLEASED BY THIS.
CAPTAIN? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YESSS...C-CAN ALMOST M-MOVE AGAIN...TOO WEAK TO BREAK OUT...
CAN YOU WALK?
...YESSS, I THINK SO.



ROUGE TO SHADOW. SPIDER TROUPE SAYS THE NUKE WAS TAKEN BY THE ALIEN LIKE YOU. WHO IS HE? ***WHAT*** IS HE?

ECLIPSE. I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. HE IS EXTREMELY ***DANGEROUS.*** TAKE HIM OUT AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.





CAPTAIN--THERE SEEMS TO BE A DIRECT ROUTE BACK TO THE SHUTTLE. THEY MAY HAVE BEEN PLANNING AN AMBUSH EARLIER, BUT THE WAY IS CLEAR NOW. TAKE THE RIGHT FORK AHEAD, THEN FOLLOW THE LEFT-HAND WALL.
OMEGA! ROUGE! ECLIPSE IS SEVEN O'CLOCK FROM YOUR POSITION--A STRAIGHT SHOT. HE HAS A BLACK OAK WITH HIM, IT HAS THE NUKE. HURRY!
WARRIORS--HEAD TO THE DARK ARMS' NURSERY. MOVE THE INCUBATORS TO A SHUTTLE. DO IT QUICKLY.
WAIT, WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THE HUMANS ARE NO LONGER CAPTIVE. SHADOW IS FREE OF MY CONTROL AND COMING FOR ME.
WHAT?! BUT I...I THOUGHT WE...WAIT, THEY WERE IN THE NURSERY?! DID THEY HURT THE DARK ARMS? I'LL HUNT THEM DOWN AND RIP--!
THE DARK ARMS ARE UNHARMED. THE BAT-WOMAN AND THE MACHINE ARE HEADING YOUR WAY. DO NOT LET THEM GET THE BOMB.
I...YES, MASTER.

SHADOW.
BLACK DEATH. JUST LIKE BLACK DOOM, YOU HIDE BEHIND THIS ONE-EYED... THING.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS. I EXERTED MY CONTROL BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD LISTEN.
THERE IS NOTHING TO LISTEN TO.
YOU DON'T BELONG WITH THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET! YOU ARE NOT ONE OF THEM! YOU NEVER CAN BE!
I BELONG NOWHERE. I HAVE CHOSEN MY HOME. MY FATE.
YOU ARE DOOMING US TO EXTINCTION! YOU CANNOT--!
WHAM

AND I WILL!
I CAN.
CRASH

SHADOW VS. BLACK DEATH
FOR THE FATE OF THE BLACK ARMS!
THIS IS IT!!
ROUGE and OMEGA vs. ECLIPSE FOR THE CONTROL OF THE BOMB!
EVERYTHING FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD!
DON'T MISS THE NO-HOLDS-BARRED FINALE NEXT MONTH!!
UNTIL THEN, DON'T MISS OUT ON SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST and the GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

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MY SONIC UNIVERSE™

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Hello cool people, the new Shadow arc looks good so far and I look forward to seeing more action *Shadow the Hedgehog style.*

Howdy cool person! We're building up to the big conclusion of Shadow's story, but that does not necessarily mean his adventure is over! Keep your eyes peeled for more on the Ultimate Life Form!

Do you have any plans to give Nicole a story arc? If so, that would be awesome.

Nicole has had a very prominent role in the most recent Sonic the Hedgehog storyline, "Countdown to Chaos" and will continue to aid the Freedom Fighters in upcoming issues, so get stoked!

Also if you decide to add Honey the Cat in the comics can she be a hero or at least an anti-hero who's mostly good?

We would love to include some of the more lesser known characters in some fashion. Stick with Sonic the Hedgehog and Sonic Universe to see if your favorites will make an appearance! Extra points to the fan who can tell us which cover Honey the Cat made a cameo appearance on!

Well that's all for now!

From Big Sonic Fan, Patrick L. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

PS. Ian Flynn has done a great job with the comics so far!

Thanks for writing in, Patrick! Ian sure has! We can't wait to see where Sonic and friends will go next, and with Ian at the helm, it's sure to be a crazy fun ride!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Your Sonic books are awesome! I love them!

Thomas D. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the short and sweet comment, Thomas!

See ya'll next month for the epic conclusion to SHADOW FALL!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

SONIC UNIVERSE #61

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COMING SOON

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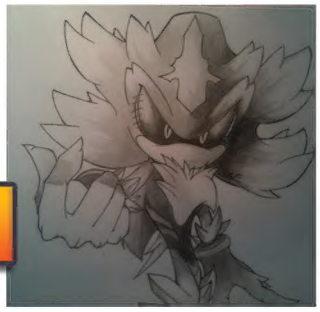

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